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WKU Student Affairs

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Western Kentucky University • Bowling Green, Kentucky

Student News, Faculty News, Alumni News, All News



Miriam Croft/Herald

Pavan Kumar Devarasetti, left, and Venkat Riddhy Kotta, both from the state of Andhrapradesh, India, play pool every Friday night at the Downing University Center. The two computer science students met in Western's graduate program and have been pool partners for several weeks.

Foreign students transition to the Hill

Some 500 international students attend Western

By LEAH M. CAUDLE
Herald reporter

Venkat Kotta smiled as his fingers flew over the keys of a computer. An instant messaging box stretched across the screen as Kotta talked to his girlfriend on the other side of the planet.

Kotta arrived as a student from Andhrapradesh, India, about two months ago.

Technology helps him talk to people at home every day, but it's still hard being away from his girlfriend.

He said his girlfriend wasn't so happy with him leaving.

"My girlfriend is not doing so good," he said.

There are more than 500 international students like Kotta who are trying to adjust to life on the Hill. These students learn the American culture and balance time between their studies and having social lives, just like other Western students.

Robin Borczon, director of international services, said there have been more international applications coming in during the past year.

"We've had an interesting growth pattern," Borczon said.

Potential international students experience a long process before arriving on campus. Students must receive a Visa stamp, show transcripts and take an English proficiency exam among other tasks, Borczon said. Students are permitted into the United States after a security clearance.

SEE TRANSITION, PAGE 8



Miriam Croft/Herald

(From left) Ron Rizzo, Thomas Rippey, Steven Ferallin and Kotta check out a prototype yesterday for part of an upcoming competition for Western's chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

TB testing continues on the Hill

Some 240 Toppers tested so far; original source still unknown

By KATIE BRANDENBURG
Herald reporter

Health Services should find out today and tomorrow if any students or faculty contracted tuberculosis from a Western student who was diagnosed with the disease three weeks ago.

About 240 students and faculty were tested for TB as of Wednesday. Health Services Director Libby Greaney said.

On Nov. 2 and 3, Health Services representatives notified the 375 students and faculty who had classes with the infected student.

Health Services provided free skin testing to people in contact with the student, who has chosen to remain unidentified. Approximately one-third of those identified as contacts chose not to be tested, Greaney said.

Members of the communicable disease unit of the health department are also testing close contacts and family of the unidentified TB patient to find the source, said Ruby Baker, director of the communicable disease unit at the health department.

"Even if we find the one specific source, it's still gonna be here," said Chip Kraus, health information officer for the health department. "TB is one of those things that we always have in the area a little bit."

Baker said there are currently three cases of active TB being treated in Warren County.

Many people said Health Services and the

SEE TB, PAGE 7

More students attend Western, fewer drop out

Enrollment numbers are higher this semester than expected

By SAMANTHA HUPMAN
Herald reporter

Crowds of students on the Hill are slightly bigger than what Western officials originally predicted.

Western's enrollment for fall 2005 is 18,645, which is 120 more than what was estimated in October, Registrar Freida Eggleston said.

The final enrollment numbers for this fall semester were reported to the Council on Post-Secondary Education on Nov. 1.

There are 132 more students this semester than last fall. The October estimate indicated that enrollment had increased by 12 students.

Western's enrollment has been increasing since 1998 when the enrollment was 14,982.

Laith Hughes, associate vice president of academic affairs, said enrollment is probably higher than the original estimate because figures change daily. Students who enroll in classes with the Division of Extended Learning and

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 8

Coaches get more flexibility in sick leave policy

New plan allows changes to practice schedules

By KELLY RICHARDSON
Herald reporter

Coaches hit by the flu now have a different set of rules to follow for missing work.

Coaches will work under a more informal operations similar to what faculty use. They will no longer earn sick leave or other time off, Human Resources Director Terry Glisson said.

Western coaches' sickleave and

vacation time was changed by an Administrative Council decision on Sept. 26. The new policy went into effect Nov. 1, Glisson said.

Under the new plan, coaches can rearrange practices around days they will be gone instead of filling out paperwork for when they would be absent.

Coaches will still get paid for the days they miss. A limit to how much time for which they get paid hasn't been set, Glisson said.

The plan will be similar to that of nine-month faculty who don't get sick leave or vacation time but have other faculty fill in for them. Faculty

who work 10 to 12 months also used to earn sick leave and vacation time, but this policy was also changed, Glisson said.

Under the old plan, coaches used to get a lump sum of money when they left the university from "sick days they earned but didn't use."

They were also mandated to take 10 days off, Glisson said.

The council changed the policy because of the coaches' odd schedules. The new plan gives coaches more flexibility since they don't always work a typical eight-hour day, Glisson said.

Coaches might work nights,

weekends and holidays, said Mary Taylor Cowles, the women's basketball head coach.

Jason Neidell, the head women's soccer coach, said he supports the new plan.

"It formalizes it, but I don't think it affects us all that much," Neidell said.

Cowles said the new policy doesn't affect her now because of the upcoming basketball season. She said it will eliminate some paperwork when she does get a chance to take time off.

Reach Kelly Richardson at news@wkuherald.com

Students to perform updated 'Tartuffe'

Play will run from today through Nov. 15

By MEGAN VERRIN
Herald reporter

The lights dim over a quiet theater. The music playing over the sound system fades softly into the background as the curtains begin to raise. Director Scott Strook scurries across the theater in an attempt to view the stage at different angles. He holds a pen near his mouth as he observes the first full dress rehearsal. In a flash of colorful hoop skirts and uniforms, southern belles and soldiers rush onto the stage as Western students bring Moliere's classic play "Tartuffe" to the full.

"Tartuffe" opens at 8 tonight in

the Russell H. Miller Theatre in the fine arts center.

Performances will take place at 8 p.m. on Nov. 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 and 3 p.m. on Nov. 13. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and senior citizens.

"Tartuffe" was written in 1664 and originally set in France. Strook updated the show by setting it in 1850s New Orleans toward the end of the Civil War era.

Strook used this concept when he last directed "Tartuffe" at Bradford College 15 years ago.

"I'm always looking for new ways to shed light on classic plays, and I'm no different than other directors in that sense," he said.

Strook explained that Moliere's classic makes references to the French civil war, and it can be adapted

to be set in the South. He said he thinks students will be amused to see it performed in a historical context they are familiar with.

A family of wealthy plantation owners take in a con-artist named Tartuffe after he convinces Orgon, the husband and father, that he is a holy man. Although the rest of the family sees through Tartuffe's fraud, Orgon refuses to believe that Tartuffe is trying to seduce his wife Elmire and marry his daughter Marianne to gain the family's fortune.

Nashville junior Jonathan Perry is playing Tartuffe, whom he describes as a hypocrite. He said Tartuffe has a pious appearance but is a sinister character underneath.

Perry said that after a rehearsal,

SEE TARTUFFE, PAGE 7



Nathan Weber/Herald

Park City senior Rebekah Lyons, left, junior Jeff Dye, from Hendersonville, Tenn., and freshman Carmelita Andrew, from Oceanside, Calif., rehearse "Tartuffe" at the Russell H. Miller Theatre.

INSIDE

Think 'Pink'

Artist Libby Rowe will visit Western to discuss her controversial art exhibit entitled "Pink." Story online.

Aye caramba!

Nancy Cartwright, who does the voice of Bart Simpson, is speaking at Western tonight. Story online.

Intramurals

Update on flag football playoffs. Page 12.



Any time this symbol appears next to a story in the Herald, go to www.wkuherald.com for more exclusive content, like photos or a multimedia show.

Weather watch

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
58°-29°	62°-35°	70°-52°	68°-38°	64°-46°

2

DAY

By the numbers

1824 Year balloons were invented, the same year as the electromagnet.

40 Number of years a rubber tree can produce the latex used to create balloons.

Source: www.guinness.com

a thousand words



A midst the dangling pearls, stubby cigars, and sour odor of bourbon wafting through the air, there is a horse race.

Welcome to the experience at Keeneland, a race track in Lexington, where names like "Tidy Up," "Tin and Lin" and "Thor's Daughter" represent the horses dashing around the dirt track. Tidy jockeys weighing little more than 100 pounds perch precariously on top of these half-ton mammals.

Such an extreme combination of a human athlete and an animal athlete make this sport unique. Not only that, but the horses run the elliptical one-and-one-sixteenth mile course at about 50 miles per hour, so the entire race lasts less than a minute and a half.

But the excitement of the day is less about the horses, jockeys and speed of the race as it is about the overall atmosphere of Keeneland. It's about betting a thousand dollars on two seconds. It's about the classic style and romantic nostalgia of horse racing. It's about dressing up in Italian leather shoes with a double-breasted jacket, and it's about pearls and large hats and parasols.

It's all about one Friday afternoon in October at the races.

Nathan Morgan is a junior photojournalism major from Nashville. Reach him at nathan.morgan@wku.edu.

Crime reports

Reports

- Terisa Yaw's, Klen Hall, reported on Nov. 7 a light cover broken on the third floor of Klen. The value of the damage was \$600.
- Kara L. Hiltnerich, McLean Hall, reported on Nov. 7 her parking permit stolen from her Chevrolet Cavalier parked on the seventh floor of parking structure 3. The value of the theft was \$75.
- Chester B. McNulty, facilities management, reported on Nov. 7 "WKU" spray painted in red on the driver's side panel of a Western-owned Dodge Ram. The value of the damage was \$600.

owned Dodge Ram. The value of the damage was \$600.

Arrest

- Daniel C. Johnson, Adairville, was arrested on Nov. 5 for driving under the influence, possession of alcohol by a minor and reckless driving on College Heights Boulevard. He was released the same day from Warren County Regional Jail on \$650 cash bond.

Correction

Due to a Herald error, Olen Taylor Collins' name was misspelled on page three of the Sept. 29 issue. The Herald regrets the error.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters' or editors' attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at herald@kuherald.com.

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Saturday, November 12th
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Faculty

Officials try to resolve retirement issue

By Amber Coulter
Herald reporter

State university representatives are forming preliminary options for solving retirement system problems.

President Gary Ransdell outlined possible plans at a University Benefits Committee meeting Tuesday, for handling problems with the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System. Ransdell attended a meeting with KTRS employees and four university representatives last week.

Other Kentucky universities have faced similar problems with the retirement plan.

Some Kentucky university employees have accused KTRS representatives of taking money from Optional Retirement Plan members' accounts to make up for membership loss.

Ransdell said there are several possible plans Western administrators may pursue to correct the situation.

"Bottom line is that they don't see this as their problem," he said. "We're not going to change their minds."

KTRS General Counsel Robert Barnes said the meeting was productive because it allowed KTRS employees to explain the history of the situation to university representatives. Barnes said the university delegates seemed to understand they owe a debt.

"This is an employer/employee issue, and we think everyone ought to have a good retirement system," he said.

ORP was founded in 1996 as an alternative to KTRS, providing faculty members' benefits

based on the amount of money they invest in the plan.

Kentucky legislators set up a \$30 million payment to KTRS in Kentucky Revised Statute 161.569 when ORP was established as an alternative to KTRS. The payment was meant to offset the revenue loss the system would suffer when members switched to ORP.

About 8 percent of the payments employees make to ORP goes to help fund KTRS as a privilege cost for being able to use ORP. The amount covers lost profits from ORP members who would have paid into KTRS.

University Senate members passed legislation at their October meeting asking administrators to rectify the funding situation. Senators debated whether KTRS officials had misappropriated funds by making up the membership loss with ORP contributions.

Sensors voted to take out language in the legislation that accused KTRS of illegal practices and asked officials to take legal action. Ransdell didn't prevent the option of compelling a lawsuit to the benefit committee.

Western officials aren't currently considering legal action because they're committed to resolving the issue outside of the courtroom, General Counsel Deborah Wilkins said.

Western officials are considering using university funds to pay off part of the debt, Ransdell said.

"KTRS doesn't care where they get their money from. They just care that they get it," he said.

Without investing extra money

into paying the debt, administrators probably won't raise the \$30 million in time, he said.

Administrators can adjust the budget to support whatever they think is necessary, Chief Financial Officer Ann Mead said.

Administrators could also make the ORP plan more balanced with the KTRS plan. They may budget more university money toward the ORP program to offset the amount taken as contributions to KTRS, Ransdell said.

Western administrators may also try to get legislation passed that would make ORP accounts independent from KTRS contribution legislation, Ransdell said. ORP members would not be defined as KTRS liabilities

under such legislation.

Administrators will not pursue legislative action in the upcoming legislative session because state legislators are already far into the budgeting process, said Robin Taylor, assistant to the president for governmental relations.

Universities may cooperate with the Council on Post-Secondary Education to ask state legislators for money to help pay the debt, Ransdell said.

University representatives haven't discussed that option, but they may coordinate such an effort by 2010, he said.

Reach Amber Coulter at news@wkuherald.com.

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3:00, 10:00
Phone (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 9:30
The Fog (PG-13) 1:55, 4:45, 7:50, 10:40
The Legend of Dragoon (PG) 1:00, 3:35, 7:00, 9:30
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The Creed

"Congress shall make no law
abridging the freedom of speech,
or of the press ..."

— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

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OPINION

Contact:

Editor: Shantayne Hopkins
Editorial: shantayne@whk.edu
News Editor: Ashley Clark
Advertising: ashley@whk.edu
Opinion Editor: Lisa Rosta
Herald: lisa@whk.edu

EDITORIAL

Road redesign

Eliminating a dangerous curve is worth \$500,000 from Western's funds

We've tackled issues ranging from tuberculosis to prepay at the gas pump, and yet we always seem to find our way back to construction. Most of the time it tends to be a vicious cycle in which we're unhappy with some decision made by the administration.

Round and round we go.

But this time we're satisfied with a construction endeavor. For those of you who are sitting there flabbergasted with your jaw on the ground, let us say it again...

For the first time in a while, we are happy about construction. College Heights Boulevard will be flattened at the base of the Meter overlook next year. The intersection where the street merges with 14th and Center streets will be removed during the project.

This is a great idea.

This intersection is arguably the most dangerous one around campus. Those of you who have ever tried to make that turn from 14th Street onto Center Street know that we are talking about. You have to make a 90-degree turn to do it. And to top it off, it's on a downward slope. That's hard enough to do with some vehicles during the day. If you throw in factors such as night driving conditions, wet or icy roads and poor visibility you are making a death wish for your vehicle. The purpose of the redesign is to decrease the number of accidents in this area.

According to Senior Project Manager Ben Johnson, construction workers will raise College Heights Boulevard by about three feet by building a retaining wall on the side of the road closest to 14th Street and filling the road with concrete. They also will change the angle of the curve from 90 degrees to about 70.

The project will cost \$750,000. About \$500,000 will come from Western's general fund and the remaining \$250,000 will come from state and federal funding.

We see no problem with spending half a million dollars to fix something that will benefit the Western community as well as many other people who choose to drive through that area of campus. Jennifer Tougash, director of parking and transportation, said the construction will not directly affect parking. All those parking spots we endlessly circle the lots for will still be available. We may just have to find an alternate route to get to our parking destinations. It doesn't seem too much to ask for a worthwhile project. The students and staff who roam the Hill have become accustomed to detours with all the construction of recent years.

And some things never change.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's eight-member board of student editors.

These are the Herald's views on the good, the bad and the slightly unattractive.

TOPS & Bottoms.



Boo to the tornado that swept through southern Indiana and northwestern Kentucky early Sunday morning.



Good job Habitat for Humanity. While some groups have stepped giving, Western's chapter continues to provide relief to Katrina victims.



We're thrilled about the redesign of College Heights Boulevard. Can you tell? It will eliminate the most dangerous curve around campus.



Hooray for the Fall Film Festival. It's a wonderful way to showcase student talent. We in courage you to see the screenings at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 in DUC Theater.

Intramural conspiracy

If I had a dime for every time my flag football team had been mistreated by the intramural staff, I'd have twenty ones. I'm not blaming the loss of my last game on a poor call, but mainly a series of poor calls by incompetent (at best) officiating. I don't expect the officials to call a perfect game, just a fair one. The team we faced was very talented and played with class, both this year and last. However, a number of each team formerly or currently holds high positions in the intramural department. While they didn't hurt us with their playing, their presence may have had a certain pull over the officials. For example, a player on our team intercepted a pass at a pivotal moment in the game and headed down the field. The play was blown dead after his flags were pulled. To our dismay, a judgment call was made (or so the official said) before the ball was even intercepted. Illegal contact was called on us without the ability to name the offender. The ball was returned to the opposing team, and the conspiracy continued. Such convenient calls are the norm when competing against the intramural staff. Most of the officials calling games don't know the difference between a safety and an interception downed in the end zone (one official actually called it this year). In short, don't expect fair treatment from our wonderful intramural officials, especially if you are playing their boss.

Dustin Turner
freshman
Bowling Green

Editorial was insensitive

I am appalled at the lack of sensitivity the Nov. 1 Herald editorial showed toward Coach Powell's unfortunate circumstances. It became clear to the someone who spoke out against this injustice. You would have on all believe that there is "no other option" and this situation is "no different" than the destruction of Seel Hall. How wrong you are.

Keep in mind that for 37 years this has been the family home of the man who built the most successful sports team at Western, and after retiring last year, opted to accept an assistant position, further contributing to the

Western swimming tradition. You would have us believe that this sacrifice is necessary.

What you failed to address was that Powell's home lies on a small lot, and the building could easily be built without it if it were to be built on top of the Mimsa lot.

By now you must be screaming "parking shortage" at the top of your lungs. The reality of the situation is that the parking shortage is largely overstated, and we haven't come close to exhausting our options yet.

If you want to talk about making sacrifices, let me offer you one: Instead of displacing this man who has given so much "for the love of Western," let's all make our own little sacrifice of a few parking spaces. Let's treat the man who is Western swimming the way he deserves to be treated.

Mallory Mead
sophomore
Hymusink, Ind.

Bring canned goods to the Nov. 18 basketball game

I would like to spread the word about a canned food drive that is going to be happening on Nov. 18. Prior to the Western basketball game against Austin Peay, canned goods will be collected at the entrance to Diddle Arena.

This event is a part of The People Speak, a week-long series of events designed to raise awareness on global issues such as hunger, poverty, health and the environment. This is taking place on Western's campus. In association with The People Speak, the Alive Center will help in distributing the cans to needy people during the holiday season.

Please come support a worthy cause as you support the Hilltoppers. Come to the game, and bring a can.

Matthew Randall
senior
Bowling Green

Support more worthy causes

Congratulations, Western football program. You've just received your third million-dollar donation in five years.

Now, what are you gonna do with the

money? Find a cure for cancer, perhaps? Rescue thousands of homeless animals? Finally see to it they execute that pesky killer, heart disease?

Oh, I see—you're going to make sure a bunch of well-meaning donors get to fulfill their lifelong dreams of the NFL, a date with the head cheerleader and endorsement deals with soft drinks of Campbell's Chunky Soup that would dwarf the all the aforementioned donations combined.

OK, so I realize that many things I do not particularly care for are nevertheless important because they bring joy to a lot of people.

But you know what would make me happy? Knowing that if my hardworking father ever has chest pain, life-saving technology is available. Knowing that one day, every temper-tantrum cat and dog will find a loving home. Knowing that my mom won't have to worry that cancer will threaten her C-cups and her life like it did my grandmother.

So if I had ten toad to admonish those of you who have ten figures to put toward the greater good to put them toward something that truly matters.

Donate that kind of money to the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association or the Humane Society for heaven's sake—anything that amounts to life or death. Just do not waste it on a game.

I get that all programs from athletics to academics depend on money, and I don't fault the administration for accepting any sums people are willing to give.

But hey, big spenders, I enthusiastically support small gifts here and there to support the non-essential organizations you believe in. And it's not that I'm picking on the pigskin. If someone bequeathed billions to the journalism department or the textiles lab, I'd still be on the offense.

So, all of you home rich people—the ball is in your, um, stadium, and it's your choice whether what you do with it will count in the end (zone).

Jenni Osborne
senior
Adairville

FROM THE CARPENTERS

It seems in this day and time that the supplies children need for class are no longer a backpack and crayons, but a bullet-proof vest and a strong stomach.

Jacksboro, Tenn., was once a peaceful town like many, but after Tuesday bullets and blood changed all that.

A school should be the place where children are the safest, but in my home state, schools are as safe as the streets in Iraq.

Earlier this year, I mourned for Jory Gregory, a bus driver in Stewart County, Tenn., who was murdered in front of dozens of kindergarten children just three miles from my home.

This week, I have been disturbed by the images I've seen. Yet again, another 15-year-old who was unable to handle his problems took the life of another in cold blood.

Because of this act, wives became widows, children became fatherless and communities were scarred forever.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shantytown lacks realistic element

Free food? Do homeless people get free food in shantytowns? Does anyone have fun being homeless?

But sleeping outside must be rough for the teams, right? Not if they bring blankets.

Even with the possibility of rain last night, sleeping outside with your friends under warm blankets is nothing compared to huddling outdoors under newspapers on a stone stoop by yourself.

Homeless people also don't have the option of leaving at 3 a.m. to go home and get some sleep before class. Therein lies the problem with Shantytown. Students aren't willing to experience what a homeless person has to go through every night. Students don't even want to stay out an entire night.

Most college students can't even imagine what it's like to not have a home. Getting a college education requires a high school education and at least an upper lower-class to lower middle-class background to afford it.

Living in a dorm, students have to be able to afford a deposit fee, even with student loans. While the loans might drive some students to poverty

after college, most can afford a graduate white mocha latte from Java City every day.

The fact is that homeless people would much rather sleep in a comfortable bed, eat good food and have a place to call their own. Sleeping in a cardboard box for an hour or two does not help anyone understand homelessness. It's an insult to people without a bed to intentionally go without one in this way. Faked empathy is worse than no empathy at all.

Homeless people would be better helped by students donating money to charities like Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army and Second Harvest. Helping people find jobs, homes and, if needed, rehab centers would be the right way to bring holiday cheer to everyone.

There's some heart involved with the idea of Shantytown, just not enough thought.

Bobby Harrell is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Saucier, Miss.

The opinions expressed in this commentary do not reflect the opinions of the Herald or the university.

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Financial aid

Tuition discount policy for employees' kids changed

By KELLY RICHARDSON
Herald reporter

Children of Western employees who want to attend school on the Hill can make good grades without the fear of losing their tuition discount.

Children of full-time employees can now receive full scholarships and still get the tuition discount available to them after a decision made by the Administrative Council on Sept. 26.

The plan went into effect Friday. This year's winter term will be the first school term in which it applies.

Children of full-time employees pay half of normal tuition rates, but before the decision they were exempt if they had received a full scholarship from Western or another source. Human Resources Director Tony Glisson said.

The new policy allows employees' children to receive a

full scholarship and the discount can go toward other expenses such as meals, books and housing, Glisson said.

Western could lose revenue since more people won't be paying the full expense, Glisson said. He didn't know how many people the new policy affects.

Chief Financial Officer Ann Mead said the policy shouldn't have a great impact on Western.

The new policy came from a recommendation from Staff

Council, Glisson said.

The Staff Council recommendation was originally made in the spring of last year, Staff Council Chairman James McCaslin said.

McCaslin said the new policy is similar to how it worked before a new computer system was put in place at Western. The system improved the monitoring of students who received the tuition discount and wouldn't allow students to receive the

discount and full scholarships.

He said the old policy almost prohibited students for doing well in high school.

"It goes along with Western's mission to attract the best and the brightest in Kentucky," he said.

Sherry Nation, a data management associate in Human Resources, has a son at Western.

Her son, Bowling Green junior Jonathan Merkle, is on a

Regents scholarship and couldn't take advantage of the tuition discount. He can now use the discount for other expenses.

Nation said she was excited about the change because it had been talked about for a while.

"Now that we know that it's going to be next semester, we were like 'Finally, it's here,'" she said.

Reach Kelly Richardson at news@wkuherald.com.

TRANSITION: Classes challenging

GRATINGS FROM TEXT PAGE

The adjustment process continues once international students arrive on the Hill.

Borczon said learning English may be challenging for the students, but it is essential.

"It's best to make them struggle a little because it increases motivation," Borczon said.

Kotta said that he underestimated how hard his classes would be. He has known English since childhood, but his other classes are challenging.

Su Yun-Je, a textiles and merchandising major from South Korea, said she studied English for seven years before arriving in America. She said she looks forward to learning more English and meeting more Americans.

"The major thing is having friendships with Americans," Jo said.

International students also have to find their way around a new town, like other students who are new to Bowling Green.

"Getting a license to drive is available to international students who had a license in their country take a written test, while non-license holders get their learner's permit before being allowed to drive."

Shuttles run on the weekend to Wal-Mart and the mall for students who can't drive.

Kotta said Wal-Mart is one of the few places he has visited since arriving in Kentucky. He said he hasn't had time to socialize, so he joined the International Club to meet people.

He said he likes Bowling Green and the people so far.

"Bowling Green is like a village," Kotta said. "There is so much to explore."

You Young, an English liter-

ature major who is also from South Korea, said she was afraid people wouldn't understand her when she came to Bowling Green.

"I heard that people aren't used to Asians at WKU," Young said.

Manisha Kura, an exchange student who is also from Andhra Pradesh, said she likes America and the people. She said American students are respectful and help her if she can't understand something. Kura said she encourages other students who are thinking of coming to America to make "the step because she said it teaches a person about life."

"You can learn a lot from your parents at home, but you can learn a lot here, too," Kura said.

Reach Leah M. Cusler at news@wkuherald.com.

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Student government

Kissers' walkway to receive repairs

By Alex Fontana
Herald reporter

A romantic historical icon at Western has become the focus of a facilities restoration project.

The Student Government Association voted on Tuesday to encourage Western to fix the wooden railings on the Kissing Bridge that is located near the Garrett Center and Cherry Hall.

Campus Improvements Chair Jeanne Johnson said the students and administrators decided the bridge was unsafe during the Campus Safety Walk on Sept. 20.

The wooden railings on the bridge have withered, resulting in a few inches of room that make the railings wobble, Johnson said.

"It's just a way of preserving historical landmarks on campus and keeping them from falling into disrepair," she said.

Maintenance Manager Charles Harrison said the facilities department is going to put wedges in the sleeves where the railing meets the concrete instead of replacing the railings.

The bridge was probably built around 1925, said Lynn Niedermeier, archival assistant at the Kentucky Library.

The legend of the Kissing Bridge is that if a couple shares their first kiss on the bridge, they're destined to get married, said Mayfield senior Jessica

Sasscen, a member of SGA. President Gary Ransdell said the theory may have some validity.

"If a guy or a girl is serious about their date, then it might be a good legend to test," Ransdell said.

He said the bridge and other buildings on the top of the Hill make the area Western's most historic feature.

The bridge spans a Civil War fortress that is very important to Bowling Green, he said.

Van Meter Hall, Cherry Hall and Gordon Wilson Hall are Western's oldest buildings and all surround the Kissing Bridge.

"We just need to preserve that unusual history on our campus," Ransdell said.

SGA didn't vote to use money for the project because the Campus Improvements Committee has a limited budget. The committee members didn't think there was enough money for the bridge repairs and other projects they are trying to fund, Johnson said.

Elizabethtown freshman Johnathon Boles is a member of the Campus Improvement Committee who helped bring the issue to the attention of SGA.

"I think it's great to preserve our heritage during this centennial year," Boles said.

Reach Alex Fontana at news@wkuherald.com.

TARTUFFE: Obstacles part of process

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the actors and actresses told him he had embodied the character so well that they themselves felt violated by his actions as Tartuffe.

"It's a compliment to me because I guess I've done my job," Perry said. "It's probably the most difficult show that I've worked on language-wise and character-wise."

Jeff Dye, a junior from Hendersonville, Tenn., is playing Orgon. He said this is the first time that he modeled a performance after a Looney Tunes character. He took the rooster, Foghorn Leghorn and developed a similar southern tone and confident posture to

create Orgon.

Another aspect of the play that makes this performance different for Dye is the classical language.

"Stroop" said "Tartuffe" is written in iambic pentameter, meaning it has ten syllables in each line, and it's written in rhymed couplets where the last words of every two lines rhyme.

Western students are busting with costumes, props and the set behind the scenes of "Tartuffe." Morehead sophomore Emily Walker, who

works on the costume shop staff, said this is the first show where all the female costumes have been made rather than bought or rented.

The idea for the costumes came from Civil War re-enactors. Hoop skirts and soldier uniforms bring a Confederate wartime touch to the show.

Perry said the girls are in love with their big, flowing dresses.

"Once we get into costume, it forms and creates our characters, so much because of what

we're wearing," Dye said. Stroop said the cast and crew have been great, and they are ready to perform despite the minor setbacks the production has faced.

"There are always obstacles, but that is part of the production process," Stroop said.

Stroop said he hopes the audience enjoys Moliere's sense of humor. He said Moliere is a hysterical playwright whose plays exhibit a timeless style of comedy.

"It's stuff that has been funny for well over 5,000 years, and it's still funny," Stroop said.

Reach Megan Venzla at features@wkuherald.com.

TB: Case managed well, Ransdell says

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Barren River District Health Department did a good job responding to the TB case.

President Gary Ransdell said the situation was handled thoughtfully and professionally. History Instructor Nathan Phelps said he was alerted that a student in his class had contracted TB early last week. Phelps was tested on Tuesday.

He said most students were concerned and uninformed about TB.

Phelps said Health Services handled the situation well, by quickly taking care of things

and teaching students about TB. "They took a long time to answer questions and explain things thoroughly," Phelps said.

TB is an airborne bacterial infection transmitted through coughing or sneezing, according to the health department. The illness usually affects the lungs, but can potentially affect any part of the body.

Only people with active TB can pass the disease to someone.

Somerset freshman Lesley Stringer said she heard about the TB case from her aunt last weekend and will probably get tested.

"I wasn't really worried, but I probably should be," Stringer said.

A chest X-ray is usually taken if a TB test is positive. A patient is then evaluated on an individual basis by a doctor to determine whether they have active or latent TB, Kinn said.

Baker said a patient may have no health problems even

if a skin test is positive. Serious health problems such as diabetes, lupus or cancer can cause the infection to become active.

People with latent TB should take an antibiotic medication for nine months. Those who test positive are given four medications for at least six months.

Kraus said people who test negative should be tested again in three months because their immune system may not have had time to react to the infection.

Reach Katie Brandenburg at news@wkuherald.com.

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Column

Don't tell me 'it's just a stupid game'



JUST SAYIN'
Amber North

This is where I shut off my big brain "No, I'm finger, take out my post-poners and go absolutely nuts."

Everyone, welcome to Hoops Nation.

March is when it's most important, but November is when it all begins.

It's when we thank a higher being for letting Dr. James Naismith invent the finest sport ever played.

For five months, we get to hear Dick Vitale go on and on about the Atlantic Coast Conference being the best conference each year, while the sharp-dressed Digger Phelps scoffs at Vitale's every word.

I've loved hoops since I was a wee girl, but I didn't realize how serious it would become until the 1996 championship with Kentucky and Syracuse.

I got it minor trouble and my punishment was that I couldn't watch the championship. But I had to see it.

So while my sister and her husband watched the game in the living room, I was discreetly watching it on the stairs. It was so worth it.

The worst thing you can say to a hoops fan is, "It's just a stupid game." Nonsense.

You can't help being emotionally involved when it comes to college hoops. You hate teams just because you can, having no need for logic.

I hate UK because it was the team that I just "had" to love. When you're from Nashville, you only have Tennessee and Vanderbilt to choose from, so choosing UK was the smarter route.

Beh, I fought the system.

I remember the 1997 Arizona-Kentucky championship when everyone at our house was rooting for Kentucky. I was the outcast who rooted for Zana, and they won. Everyone hated me as I gloated for the next hour. Ever since, I've loved the real Wildcats fan.

And I definitely cannot wait

for the Topper and Lady Topper seasons to begin.

During my freshman and sophomore years, it was tough to get a good seat in Diddle Arena, but last year was pathetic.

The only way to fill out the seats in Diddle is whenever we have a game broadcast on ESPN2.

But for those who will frequent the games this season, don't mind me. I'm just that woman who swears every five seconds and berates the refs.

Ho-o-rah.

Yeah. And we thought Dicky V was amusing.

Amber North is the Herald assistant sports editor and humor columnist. You can reach her at amnorth@herald.com.

STUDENTS: Rates increase

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Outreach programs don't have to follow regular deadlines when registering and dropping classes.

More students from Kentucky, lower drop-out rates and recruitment efforts may have contributed to the rising enrollment.

Fewer students dropped out this semester, Hughes said. The deadline to drop classes was extended, which allowed students to get their financial aid packages completed.

Western's enrollment was expected to stay the same, or decrease because of a decline in Tennessee students.

The Tennessee State Lottery gave students an incentive to stay in-state by offering students scholarships to attend in-state institutions. High school seniors who graduated in 2004 were the first recipients of the scholarships.

There were 119 fewer Tennessee students than last fall.

The decrease was offset by 278 more students from Kentucky.

Tennessee still contributes the most out-of-state students to Western, Hughes said.

Western puts a lot of effort into recruiting Kentucky students, Hughes said. Some recruitment efforts include open houses and scholarship programs.

The increase of Kentucky students is also an indication that Western's academic programs have a good reputation.

"It's becoming a college of choice for more people," Hughes said.

Enrollment is expected to rise to 20,000 in the next five years, Provost Barbara Burch said in October.

The growing student population can be managed because some students will be taking classes online or on extended campuses.

Reach Samantha Hayman at news@wkuherald.com.

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FLAG: Weather spoils 8 games

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"We did well given the circumstances," she said. "As a quarterback, you gotta know the field."

They added 12 points in the second quarter and held the ADP's scoreless for the remainder of the game.

"We played pretty hard. They just played a little harder," ADP's sophomore Lincley Hauer said. "We'll be back next year."

The KD team now advances to play Paydirt in the semifinals. Paydirt beat ADP's Blue in the first round.

ADP's Red beat Chi Omega in the fifth round and advanced to the finals after BSU Purple and BSU White both forfeited.

—Laura Clark

Men's rec division

Defense controlled the Paydirt Rockets' 13-0 second round win over Sigma Chi White Tuesday night.

Paydirt's two second quarter touchdowns were the difference.

"I think we need to tighten up the defense. All-in-all, it was a good performance," Paydirt sophomore Michael Doyle said.

The Rockets' quarterfinal game with BSU Blue was postponed.

After a defensive battle in the first quarter, Paydirt scored on a touchdown reception from James Morrison to Richard Horst.

At the end of the half, a Paydirt interception set up their second touchdown of the quarter, but they were unable to get

the extra point.

"We could have done better," Sigma Chi sophomore Adam Shurtz said. "I think if we played this team again, we would've won."

—Beth Wilberding

Co-rec division

All four quarterfinal games were postponed due to the weather.

One of those games was the anticipated match-up between rivals the Sigma Chi White Rose team and Kappa Alpha Psi.

"It sucks, man, because you wanna get out, you wanna play," SAE senior Nick Johnston said.

—David Harten

Reach the reporters at sports@whalerald.com

PUSHOVER: Knights strong in the post

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Bellarmino's attack relies on guard Matt Miller. The senior averages 15.5 points per game and scored a team-high 18 points at Louisville.

"Miller is exceptional in terms of his quickness and his ability to handle the basketball," Horn said. "I think he's what really makes them go and is really the difference maker for them being able to compete in these games."

Bellarmino also has been able to hold its own in the post against both Louisville and Murray State. The Knights out-rebounded the Cardinals 32-26 and were edged by the Racers 26-23.

Davenport said although he's been pleased with the results thus far, the Knights are still a work in progress.

"I've been very impressed with their attitudes," he said.

"But we've only been together since Aug. 22. This season is a marathon, not a sprint."

Western has won five straight exhibition games since losing 69-54 to the Harlem Globetrotters in 2002.

The Toppers defeated Brock University (103-66) and Abilene Christian (89-60) in exhibition games last season.

"These games help us a lot to get focused and get our chemistry down," sophomore guard Courtney Lee said. "It also helps us get adjusted to the crowd and new players and builds our confidence."

Western will also get a chance to experiment with possible starting lineups.

Horn said that no spots have been permanently determined.

Reach Jason Stamm at sports@whalerald.com


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Women's soccer

Record doesn't reflect success

BY MIKE DUNCAN
Herald reporter

Though the record doesn't show it, the Lady Topper soccer team took some important strides this season.

In only six fifth year of existence, coach Jason Neidell's team had to rebound from the loss of 11 seniors after last season and play its toughest schedule ever with its smallest roster ever.

"We got our first result against a ranked team, played our best against Kentucky and beat Denver for the first time," Neidell said.

Western finished 7-10-3 and 5-5-1 in the Sun Belt Conference and lost to North Texas 2-1 in the semifinal of the conference tournament at South

Alabama Nov. 3. The Lady Mean Greens scored the winning goal in the 89th minute.

"I wish we could have gone further," senior forward Christi Banas said. "But I'm still proud of my teammates."

The weekend of Sept. 16 brought two of Western's strongest foes to the Hill in three days. Cal Poly and Kentucky beat the Lady Toppers by a combined margin of 12-4 in 2004.

Cal Poly was the No. 17 team in the country. But the Lady Toppers played both teams in a double-overtime 1-1 tie.

"We were a lot more successful than our record," Banas said.

Banas also said that besides the wins and important ties, a

loss helped guide the team this season.

"I think the loss to Louisville was a wake up call," she said of the 3-0 away loss Sept. 11. "It pushed us in the right direction."

Before the season began, injuries were already hindering the team.

Two-time All-Sun Belt Conference player and fifth-year senior captain Jenny Dalby began the season sidelined with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

"We weren't deep to begin with," Neidell said.

This season's roster was the smallest in the brief history of the program. With only 17 field players, Neidell said, injuries were a bigger problem than usual.

Freshman "forwards" Sara Boukye and Kristin Cocchiarella each missed the beginning of the season with injuries. Cocchiarella had just made her first start when she tore her anterior cruciate ligament and went back to the sidelines.

The Lady Toppers will lose four seniors, including the only two remaining from the inaugural season, Banas and Jenny Dalby. Neidell said the recruiting class should be between 10 and 12 new freshman next season.

"I'm real anxious about next year," sophomore midfielder Alicia Dalby said. "I think we're gonna be even better."

Reach Mike Duncan
at sports@whsaherald.com.

FOOTBALL: Moore expected to return

Continued from Page 12

to score a touchdown. Haddix threw for 126 yards on 24 attempts.

The Toppers have been without senior tailback Lerron Moore, who went down with a shoulder injury in the loss to Southern Illinois.

Elton said Moore is expected to play Saturday.

Sophomore running back Stephen Willis finished the Southern Illinois game with 80 yards after Moore left the game. Willis also played against Northern Iowa and gained 92 yards and scored a touchdown.

"We didn't run and do the

type offense that we usually do," Willis said about Saturday's loss. "But it is time to put everything behind us and play."

Youngstown State ranks at the top of the conference in pass defense, giving up 200 yards a game. Junior cornerback Codera Jackson won't help the Topper offense get back on track.

Jackson's six interceptions leads the conference and is tied for first in Division I-AA. Jackson had a 72-yard interception return for a touchdown on Sept. 19 against Liberty.

Reach Wes Watt
at sports@whsaherald.com.

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Men's soccer

Creighton win highlight of season

Five seniors led improved Toppers

BY DAVID HARTEN
Herald reporter

It makes sense that the Toppers' postseason hopes rested on the final match of the season.

Western needed a win at Drake Saturday to secure a spot in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament, but the Bulldogs pounced on the Toppers, 8-1.

Western had been making things suspenseful since the season opener at Northwestern on Sept. 2, a match in which they were beaten with a goal in the 87th minute.

This season the Toppers improved their win total from a year ago by three wins, finishing 8-8-1, while compiling a 2-5 mark in Missouri Valley Conference play.

A five-match winning streak midway through the season ended Western's win total for all of last season.

The Toppers finished fourth in the Missouri Valley in shots with 251, and third in shots per game, averaging 14.76.

On the defensive side of the ball, Western finished fourth as a team in saves, collecting 65.

The seven defensive shutouts rank third in team history.

On the season, the Toppers were 2-2 against teams ranked in the Top 25. Western defeated then-No. 19 Vermont in the championship game of the PUMA Classic at Vanderbilt, and picked up the team's first-ever win against then-No. 15 Creighton on Senior Night, Oct. 22.

"The guys ought to be proud of the fact that we've knocked off two Top 25 teams," coach David Holmes said. "We won the Vanderbilt tournament, there's three Division I teams in the state of Kentucky, and we've won more games than any of the others."

"Some individuals shined for the Toppers this season."

Sophomore goalkeeper Kyle Schroeder was a two-time Missouri Valley Conference defensive player of the week selection. Schroeder collected 62 saves and six shutouts, ranking him fifth in the conference in saves and tying him for fourth all-time in school history for shutouts in a season.

After being selected to the Missouri Valley preseason all-conference team, senior forward Richard Mupfudze backed up the selection by tying for fourth in the conference with eight goals, ranking second in shots (61), and seventh in total points (18).

Junior forward Daniel Payne was selected to ESPN the Magazine's

CoSIDA Academic All-District IV first team. Payne ranked second on the team in goals with five this season, and he ranked sixth in the conference with three game-winning goals.

"It's always cool to see 'All-District' by your name," Payne said. "People are asking me, 'Are you gonna be in the magazine?' But for ESPN to select me is nice."

Payne will be considered next for Academic All-America honors.

It was a milestone season for Holmes. The coach won his 200th career match with a 5-1 win over Xavier on Sept. 25.

Western will lose five seniors — forwards Richard Mupfudze and Jacob Isenhour, midfielder Steven Medlock, and defenders Brian Kline and Clay McMillan.

Junior midfielder Alex Sheikh said the team will need to make improvements before next season.

"We'd like to be able to play teams straight up," he said. "We need to work on playing better offensively."

Holmes said his biggest cheer over the winter will be replacing the leaders.

Reach David Harten
at sports@wkuherald.com.

TEST: Weekend sweep means tourney No. 1 seed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"I also think we need to bring our defense because that's what really helped us through this last weekend," she said.

Western, who also plays Troy at home Sunday, must win one of the two matches to get the No. 1 seed in next week's conference championship, which is at MTSU. The Blue Raiders would have the No. 2 seed if Western wins one of their two matches.

If that scenario works out, the teams could face each other again in the championship match.

Peck said his team would have to play a "damn near perfect match" to defeat Western.

"I'm just excited to get on the court to see where we are since play-

ing in Bowling Green," he said.

The Lady Toppers are hoping to go undefeated in the conference, a feat they achieved in the 2002 season. The 2002 team won the conference championship and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Senior outside hitter Crystal Towler said she would like to end the season with two more sweeps, but that getting the wins are more important.

"If we take care of our business, we'll be fine," she said.

The Lady Toppers' final home game and Senior Day is at 1 p.m. Sunday, against Troy.

The Sun Belt Conference Tournament begins on Nov. 17.

Reach Beth Wilberding
at sports@wkuherald.com.

Basketball brief

Lady Tops to meet Wesleyan in exhibition Saturday

Western will play its first preseason game at 7 p.m. Saturday when Kentucky Wesleyan visits Diddle Arena.

The Lady Toppers won both exhibition games last season including a 96-50 pounding of the Panthers.

Last season Wesleyan finished 12-15 while competing in Division II.

Western is the preseason coaches pick to win the Sun Belt Conference East Division.

Check out www.wkuherald.com to see who signed national letters of intent to join the men's and women's programs.

—Michael Casagrande

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Notable

•The Western volleyball team is two matches away from a possible perfect Sun Belt Conference record. The Lady Toppers have yet to lose a game in their 10 conference games this season.

SPORTS

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Contacts

Sports Editor Michael Casagrande:
sports@wkurh.com
Photo Editor Hunter Wilson:
photo@wkurh.com

Youngstown leaves no room for error

By Wes Watt
Herald reporter

Though there are two games left, Western only has one choice: win.

At noon on Saturday at No. 11 Youngstown State, the Hilltoppers must win in order to keep their playoff ambitions intact.

"I'm excited about it," coach David Elson said. "We're going on the road, we've both got our back against the wall — shoot, it's college football."

Western was forced into the scenario after the collapse over the past two games.

The Toppers have suffered back-to-back home losses for the first time since 1994 in the past two games. The loss to Southern Illinois and Northern Iowa cost Western an outright Gateway Conference championship and put its playoff hopes in jeopardy.

The Toppers (6-3, 4-2 Gateway) have fallen from No. 1 to No. 12 in the Sports Network Poll and puts pressure on Western to win its final two games to make the playoffs.

A loss at either Youngstown State (7-3, 4-2 Gateway) or Florida International on Nov. 19 could force Western to watch

the playoffs from the sofa.

But if the Toppers win against Youngstown and Southern Illinois (7-2, 5-1 Gateway) loses to Northern Iowa (6-3, 4-2 Gateway) on Saturday, Western would get a share of the conference title.

"Everyone knows what's on the line," senior linebacker Brandon Smith said. "Nobody is accepting the two losses very well, and I don't expect anyone to accept the losses very well."

The Topper offense suffered during the last two games.

The unit averaged 418 yards a game prior to the 31-20 loss to Southern

Illinois and the Toppers had four straight games scoring more than 37 points.

The loss to Northern Iowa was the Toppers' worst offensive performance of the year. Western gained a season-low 295 yards and scored only one touchdown in regulation in the 23-20 double-overtime loss to the Panthers.

For the first time since a 45-3 win over Western Illinois on Nov. 13, 2004, junior quarterback Justin Haddix failed

SEE FOOTBALL ON PAGE 10

Gateway standings

1. Youngstown St.	6-3	2-1
2. Southern Illinois	6-3	2-1
3. Western	6-3	2-1
4. Northern Iowa	6-3	2-1
5. Illinois State	5-4	2-2
6. Missouri State	5-4	2-2
7. Western Illinois	4-5	2-3
8. Indiana State	4-5	2-3

Key Gateway games:
Western at Youngstown St.
Southern Illinois at N. Iowa



Nathan Weber/Herald

Alpha Delta Pi sophomore Jennifer Bevington (left) lunges for Kappa Delta sophomore Tara Foster (right) during the women's division flag football playoffs on Tuesday. The KDs won 32-0 and advanced to the semifinals to play Playdirt.

Top seeds advance in flag playoffs

HERALD STAFF REPORT

The top teams in the four divisions of the intramural flag football playoffs are still alive after the opening round.

Weather postponed all but four games last night. Times for the rescheduled games were not available last night.

Men's division

A difference in height determined the game as top-seeded Unbeatable beat Sigma Chi Blue 27-20 in the

quarterfinals.

Sigma Chi senior Corey Vinogri said they knew it would be a tough game, but they were expecting to win. "They had the height on us, and we couldn't jump," he said.

Missing two key players on both sides of the ball, Junior Unbeatable Colin Wells said they used speed to win the game.

"We stayed with our structure and ran our same plays," Unbeatable junior Tyrell Washington said.

Unbeatable will play either Phi Delta A and Sigma Chi Gold in the

semifinals.

Unbeatable also advanced to the semifinals after defeating College 12-6 last night. The winner of 812 A/Playdirt A will decide Unbeatable's opponent.

—Sonya Cecil

Women's division

The top-seeded Kappa Deltas defeated Alpha Delta Pi-White 32-0 in the opening round Tuesday.

KD Tara Foster caught a touchdown pass from quarterback

Ashley Britt in the opening minute as they jumped to a 20-point lead by the end of the first quarter.

On the first ADP possession, a KD intercepted a pass from ADP's quarterback Jennifer Bevington. The turnover led to another Britt touchdown when Stacey Adkisson caught a pass from Britt.

Britt played the game with a broken finger and said her team was missing two starters.

SEE FLAG ON PAGE 8

Men's basketball

Bellarmine not typical exhibition pushover

By Jason Stamm
Herald reporter

Exhibition games are typically a scrimmage-like warm-up for Division I teams to get ready for the season against a much lesser opponent.

Western may have to take a hard look at that approach as the Toppers play host to Bellarmine at 7 tonight in Diddle Arena.

Bellarmine (0-2) hung tight before

falling Nov. 7 Louisville 70-63 on Nov. 2.

The Division II Knights then stayed close to Ohio Valley Conference preseason No. 1 Murray State before falling 59-53 on Saturday.

"Louisville and Murray are both good teams, but I'm really proud of our team," Bellarmine coach Scott Davenport said. "I'm proud of their courage and to go on the road in those kind of environments. They're a special group of men to coach."

The Knights' start is especially surpris-

ing given their 9-18 record last season and last place finish in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

"I think it says that any time you get a breath of fresh air and a new coach as good as Scotty Davenport, it brings excitement to the program," coach Darrin Horn said. "The players have bought into his style of play, and they've done a good job."



7 tonight
Diddle Arena

SEE BASKETBALL ON PAGE 8

Volleyball

Final weekend to test perfect SBC record

Lady Tops have won all 30 games in 10 Sun Belt matches

By Beth Wilderberg
Herald reporter

When the Lady Toppers volleyball team faced Middle Tennessee State earlier this season, it was to begin their Sun Belt Conference schedule.

Western won in three games against the Blue Raiders and haven't had a conference loss yet. The Lady Toppers (26-2, 10-0 SBC East) visit MTSU at 7 p.m. Friday as the only conference for the Blue Raiders have lost to this season.

"The challenge certainly grows playing them in their home floor because they have a great atmosphere," coach Travis Hudson said. "MTSU (25-2, 9-1 SBC East) is on an 11-match win streak, and Western has won eight straight."

"It's just exciting because it's a victory," Blue Raider coach Matt Peck said. "I don't want to put a whole lot of pressure on this match. I'm just looking forward to it because I think it's going to be a lot of fun."

Both teams will also bring conference standouts to the match. Senior setter Carol Blotch was named conference player of the week after averaging 14 assists and 2.17 kills per game last weekend.

Blue Raider sophomore libero Alicia Lemari was named conference Defensive Player of the Week for the third time. She recorded 20 digs Sunday against Arkansas State and became the fastest Blue Raider to have 1,000 career digs.

When the teams played on Sept. 23, both coaches said they were disappointed with how the match went.

"I don't think that match was particularly well-played," Hudson said. "I expect both teams to be playing at a much higher level."

Peck said on Sept. 26 that "the tempo of the match was disappointing."

Having energy and excitement will help the Lady Toppers this weekend, freshman middle hitter Megan Argabright said.

SEE TENIS ON PAGE 11

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